41.   The method of claim 40 wherein the step of providing extended services comprises providing commercial transactions between the merchant and the consumer.

42.   The method of claim 36 wherein the method further comprises the step of prompting for a password to access the information.

43.   The system of claim 36, wherein the hierarchy of geographic areas includes at least one geographic area of large expanse and a plurality of geographic areas of smaller expanse.

44.   The system of claim 43, wherein the geographic areas of smaller expanse are organized into at least one topical category.
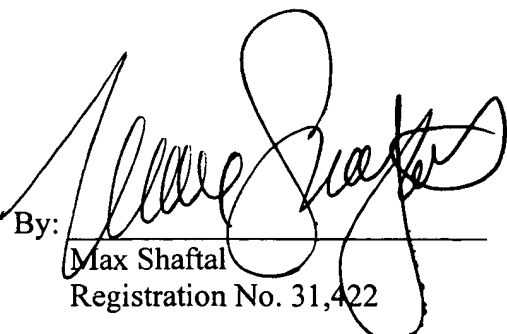
45.   The system of claim 16, wherein the information includes coupons.

REMARKS

A check in the amount of $267.00 is enclosed to cover the additional claims added in this preliminary amendment.

_____, 2002

PATZIK, FRANK & SAMOTNY LTD.
150 South Wacker Drive
Suite 900
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone No.: 312-551-8300
Facsimile No.: 312-551-1101

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____
Max Shaftal
Registration No. 31,422

6

16.   (New) A system for allowing information to be inputted and accessed based on geographic area, the system comprising:

    a database having the information organized into a hierarchy of geographic areas;

    means for accessing the information in the database from a plurality of computers;

    means for inputting information to the hierarchy of geographic areas;

    means for selecting the geographic area;

    means for displaying the information from the database based on the selection of the geographic area.

17.   (New) The system of claim 16, wherein the hierarchy of geographic areas includes at least one geographic area of large expanse and a plurality of geographic areas of smaller expanse.

18.   (New) The system of claim 17, wherein the geographic areas of smaller expanse are organized into at least one topical category.

19.   (New) The system of claim 18, wherein the means for selecting the information further includes means for selecting information based on the topical category.

20.   (New) The system of claim 16, wherein the information includes business advertising.

21.   (New) The system of claim 16, wherein the information includes coupons.

22.   (New) The system of claim 21, wherein the coupons are of limited duration.

23.   (New) The system of claim 16 further comprising means for monitoring the usage of the system.

24.   (New) The system of claim 23 which further comprises means for providing statistics regarding the usage of the system.

25.   (New) The system of claim 23 which further comprises means for calculating fees based on the usage of the system.

26.   (New) The system of claim 16 which further comprises means to limit access to the information.

27.   (New) The system of claim 26 wherein the limiting means comprises a password required to access the information.

28.   (New) The system of claim 16, wherein the information includes job postings.

29.   (New) The system of claim 16 which further comprises means for providing extended services.

30.   (New) The system of claim 29 wherein the extended services includes allowing commercial transactions.

31.   (New) The system of claim 16 wherein the geographic area is selected by town name.

32.   (New) The system of claim 16 wherein the geographic area is selected by zip code.

33.   (New) A system for referring a consumer to one or more merchants, the system comprising:

a database having information about the merchants organized into a hierarchy of geographic areas, wherein the geographic areas includes at least one geographic area of large expanse and a plurality of geographic areas of smaller expanse organized into a plurality of topical categories;

means for accessing the merchant information in the database from a plurality of computers;

means for inputting the merchant information to the hierarchy of geographic areas;

means for the consumer to select the geographic area;

means for displaying the information from the database based on the selection of the geographic area.

34.   (New) The system of claim 33 which further comprises means for the consumer to directly contact the merchant.

35.   (New) The system of claim 33 which further comprises means to allow for commercial transactions between the merchant and the consumer.

36.   (New) A method for referring a consumer to one or more merchants comprising;

   providing a database having the merchant information organized into a hierarchy of geographic areas;

   connecting the consumer to the database;

   prompting the consumer to input the geographic area;

   displaying the merchant information in response to the geographic area inputted by the consumer.

37.   (New) The method of claim 36 wherein the method further comprises the step of monitoring the information that is accessed.

38.   (New) The method of claim 37 wherein the method further comprises the step of providing statistics regarding the information accessed.

39.   (New) The method of claim 37 wherein the method further comprises the step of calculating fees based on the information accessed.

40.   (New) The method of claim 36 wherein the method further comprises the step of providing extended services.

41.   (New) The method of claim 40 wherein the step of providing extended services comprises providing commercial transactions between the merchant and the consumer.

42.   (New) The method of claim 36 wherein the method further comprises the step of prompting for a password to access the information.

43.   (New) The system of claim 36, wherein the hierarchy of geographic areas includes at least one geographic area of large expanse and a plurality of geographic areas of smaller expanse.

44.   (New) The system of claim 43, wherein the geographic areas of smaller expanse are organized into at least one topical category.

45.   (New) The system of claim 16, wherein the information includes coupons.